



UNITED STATES OF AMERICA



FOUNDED 1836

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WASHINGTON, D.C.





*Am. Edw. Phillips*

REMONSTRANCE

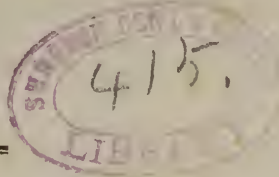
OF

THE MASSACHUSETTS MEDICAL SOCIETY,

ON THE

PETITION FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A COLLEGE  
OF PHYSICIANS :

TOGETHER WITH SAID PETITION.



BOSTON :

PRINTED BY THOMAS B. WAIT AND CO.

1811.

Boston, October 17th, 1811.

At a stated meeting of the Counsellors of the Massachusetts Medical Society, held on the 5th day of October, 1811,

Voted, That the committee appointed to present to the General Court the Remonstrance of the society against the petition for a College of Physicians, be empowered to print the said remonstrance, and also the petition, provided they judge it expedient.

At a meeting of the committee on the 17th day of October 1811,

Voted, That it is expedient to print the said remonstrance and petition; and that the Corresponding Secretary and Recording Secretary be directed to cause the same to be done, and a copy transmitted to each of the fellows of the society.

Attest.

THOS. WELSH, Corresponding Sec'ry.

TO THE  
HONOURABLE THE SENATE,  
AND THE  
HONOURABLE THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,  
IN GENERAL COURT ASSEMBLED,  
THIS PETITION MOST RESPECTFULLY SHEWETH:—

**T**HAT seeing health is a blessing, which sweetens all our enjoyments ; and long life that which all men naturally desire, so every thing that tendeth to secure the one or leadeth to the other, is an object worthy the attention of this Legislature.

And considering, moreover, that of the various methods of obtaining and diffusing medical knowledge, not one is found so effectual and desirable as a friendly and liberal intercourse and honourable associations of its professors ; more especially when their end and aim is mutual improvement and the public good ; and experience has proved that two literary and scientific societies produce more than double the advantage of one—

Influenced by these sentiments, we your petitioners humbly pray the Honourable the Legislature to constitute us, and such as may hereafter associate with us, a body politic and corporate, by the name and title of the *Massachusetts College of Physicians* ; with such powers, privileges and immunities, as other medical associations of the like nature and views, enjoy under the same denomination in several states of the Union.

And your petitioners shall, as in duty bound, ever pray.

THOMAS WILLIAMS,  
SAMUEL DANFORTH,  
MARSHALL SPRING,  
NATH. AMES,  
WILLIAM ASPINWALL,  
JOHN JEFFRIES,  
JAMES MANN,  
CHARLES WINSHIP,  
ABIJAH DRAPER,  
JOSEPH LOVELL,  
JACOB GATES,  
WILLIAM INGALLS.

The foregoing is a true copy of a petition presented and read in the House of Representatives of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, on Tuesday the 12th of February 1811 ;—and then committed to

Dr. KITTREDGE of Andover,  
Mr. LINCOLN of Worcester,  
And Mr. MELLEN of Cambridge.

On the 18th of February 1811, the abovementioned committee reported, that the subject matter of this petition be referred to the first session of the next General Court.—Which report was accepted ; and it stands referred accordingly.

Attest,

C. P. SUMNER,

Clerk of the House of Representatives.

Boston, 20th March, 1811.



TO THE  
HONOURABLE THE SENATE AND HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS.

THE Massachusetts Medical Society, in consequence of an application to the General Court in February last, for the incorporation of a College of Physicians, beg leave respectfully to represent,

That the said Massachusetts Medical Society was established in November 1781, with power to elect officers, examine and license candidates for practice, hold estate, and perpetuate its existence as a body corporate. In June 1782, the society was organized agreeably to the provisions of the statute, and the members directed in every way to extend and increase its usefulness. By an additional act of the General Court in February 1789, authority was given to point out and describe such a mode of medical instruction as might be deemed requisite for candidates previous to examination ; which important duty has been constantly attended to, and occasionally revised. By a farther additional act in March 1803, as the society was thought too limited to answer the purposes of its establishment, its state was so essentially changed, that the number of its fellows originally limited to seventy, may embrace all respectable physicians and surgeons resident in the state ; and that district societies

may be established in such places as will facilitate medical improvement, and prevent the inconvenience of applying in all cases to the censors in Boston for an examination.

In consequence of this provision several district societies are formed, and are in a prosperous condition, cultivating medical science, and qualifying candidates, in various parts of the commonwealth. It has been the constant endeavour of the society, without reference to local or political considerations, to admit the most respectable practitioners in every section of the state, and they are desirous to elect all others of known talents who, by accident or from any other cause, are not admitted.

The number of candidates licensed for practice by the society is more than eighty, all of whom, as well as all bachelors of medicine in Harvard University, may claim admission as fellows of the society, after three years practice.

The present number of fellows exceeds two hundred. Publications of important cases communicated to the society ; of a *Pharmacopæia*, which is now in general use ; and of *Dissertations* read at the meetings, have been made, as often as the funds would possibly admit ; committees have been appointed to investigate the nature, causes and cure of epidemics, and the result of their inquiries communicated to the public. The greatest harmony has distinguished their proceedings. No mention was ever made, as has been insinuated, of regulating fees in practice. The sole object of the society has been to promote the design of its institution, and the fellows have been led to be-

lieve by the constant patronage and support of the Legislature, as well as the public voice, that their conduct has been approved.

It is scarcely necessary to remark, that from the state of medical science, at the incorporation of the society, its progress, for several years, was slow, and that it was less useful than could have been wished ; but by the aid and co-operation of the flourishing medical school at the University, it is at this time in a most prosperous state ; and it is the united endeavour of all to promote medical instruction, and discourage unworthy practices.

It is found on examination that the petition on the files of the General Court, for a College of Physicians, is for similar powers and privileges with this society, on the ground, that—"two literary and scientific societies would produce more than double the advantages of one."—The society presume not to dictate to the Legislature on this important subject ; but they beg leave respectfully to offer an opinion, that the establishment of such an institution, can effect no object, not accomplished by existing societies, and would be so far from promoting a laudable and useful emulation, that candidates rejected by one society would resort to the other, with the greatest hopes of success, whatever might be their qualifications for the proper exercise of their profession. Hence would arise disagreements and animosities, which in other parts of the United States (particularly in Philadelphia at a former period, and very recently at New-York) have been injurious to the profession and to the public. Such animosities were threatened in the

infancy of this establishment, by a supposed interference of Harvard College, with the rights of the society, and would have produced the most unhappy effects, but for the repeal of an exceptionable article in that establishment, and the accommodating conduct of those who at that period were the guardians of science, and the patrons of the healing art.

From these considerations, and from other circumstances which the Medical Society are prepared to state, they have thought it an incumbent duty to request that the prayer of the said petition should not be granted, and they as in duty bound will ever pray.

At the annual meeting of the Fellows of the Massachusetts Medical Society, held on the 5th day of June 1811, the following members being present, viz.

|                   |    |              |
|-------------------|----|--------------|
| JOHN WARREN       | of | Boston.      |
| JOSHUA FISHER     |    | Beverly.     |
| COTTON TUFTS      |    | Weymouth.    |
| LEMUEL HAYWARD    |    | Boston.      |
| DAVID TOWNSEND    |    | do.          |
| THOMAS KITTREDGE  |    | Andover.     |
| WILLIAM GAMAGE    |    | Cambridge.   |
| THOMAS WELSH      |    | Boston.      |
| JOHN BROOKS       |    | Medford.     |
| ABRAHAM HASKELL   |    | Lunenburg.   |
| TIMOTHY CHILDS    |    | Pittsfield.  |
| OLIVER PRESCOTT   |    | Newburyport. |
| AARON DEXTER      |    | Boston.      |
| JOSIAH BARTLETT   |    | Charlestown. |
| JONATHAN OSGOOD   |    | Gardner.     |
| JAMES THACHER     |    | Plymouth.    |
| OLIVER FISKE      |    | Worcester.   |
| AMOS HOLBROOK     |    | Milton.      |
| WILLIAM SPOONER   |    | Boston.      |
| DANIEL PARKER     |    | Bradford.    |
| JOHN G. COFFIN    |    | Boston.      |
| THOMAS MANNING    |    | Ipswich.     |
| NATHANIEL MILLER  |    | Franklin.    |
| ISAAC HURD        |    | Concord.     |
| JOHN FLEET        |    | Boston.      |
| JOHN B. KITTREDGE |    | Framingham.  |
| ESTES HOWE        |    | Belchertown. |
| RICHARD HAZELTINE |    | Berwick.     |
| SHIRLEY ERVING    |    | Boston.      |
| ABIEL HEYWOOD     |    | Concord.     |
| GEORGE OSGOOD     |    | Danvers.     |
| GROSVENOR TARBELL |    | Lincoln.     |
| JACOB GATES       |    | Boston.      |
| WILLIAM INGALLS   |    | do.          |

|                      |                |
|----------------------|----------------|
| WILLIAM GAMAGE, jun. | of Boston.     |
| DANIEL SHUTE         | Hingham.       |
| JAMES P. CHAPLIN     | Cambridgeport. |
| JOHN WALTON          | Pepperell.     |
| JOSEPH TORREY        | Salem.         |
| ISRAEL WHITON        | Winchendon.    |
| ABEL FOX             | Charlestown.   |
| ISRAEL ALLEN         | Sterling.      |
| ROBERT THAXTER       | Dorchester.    |
| PETER G. ROBBINS     | Lynn.          |
| THOMAS J. PARKER     | Boston.        |
| JOHN D. TREADWELL    | Salem.         |
| JOSEPH FISK          | Lexington.     |
| JOHN BARTLETT        | Roxbury.       |
| JOHN DIXWELL         | Boston.        |
| ABRAHAM R. THOMPSON  | Charlestown.   |
| JEREMY STIMPSON      | Groton.        |
| SAMUEL PERRY         | New Bedford.   |
| EBENEZER STARR       | Newton.        |
| LEVI LINCOLN         | Hingham.       |
| JAMES GARDNER        | Lynn.          |
| STEPHEN BATCHELDER   | Royalston.     |
| JAMES JACKSON        | Boston.        |
| WALTER HUNNEWELL     | Watertown.     |
| NOAH FYFIELD         | Weymouth.      |
| PETER ADAMS          | Stoughton.     |
| JOHN GORHAM          | Boston.        |
| TIMOTHY L. JENNISON  | Cambridge.     |
| SAMUEL HEMMENWAY     | Salem.         |
| ASA BULLARD          | Boston.        |
| JOHN C. WARREN       | do.            |
| DANIEL FOGG          | Braintree.     |
| NEHEMIAH CLEVELAND   | Topsfield.     |
| SAMUEL MANNING       | Lancaster.     |
| HORACE BEAN          | Boston.        |
| PETER BRYANT         | Cummington.    |
| BENJAMIN BROWN       | Waldoboro.     |
| ISAAC RAND, jun.     | Boston.        |

The above Memorial was read, accepted (with one dissenting voice) and ordered to be presented by Drs. Townsend, Warren, Welsh, Dexter, Spooner, Bartlett, and Shurtliff.

In behalf of the Society.

JOHN WARREN, President.

#### COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS.

In the House of Representatives, June 14, 1811.

Read and committed to Mr. GREEN of Berwick, Mr. FAY, and Mr. BANGS, with such as the Honourable Senate may join, to consider and report.

Sent up for concurrence.

JOSEPH STORY, Speaker.

In Senate, June 14, 1811.

Read and concurred, and the Honourable Mr. STARKWEATHER, and the Honourable Mr. TOWNER, are joined.

SAMUEL DANA, President.

The joint committee of both Houses to whom was committed the petition of Thomas Williams and others, praying to be incorporated by the name and title of "The Massachusetts College of Physicians," with such powers, privileges and immunities as other medical associations have and enjoy; and also, the remonstrance of John Warren, and others, members of "The Massachusetts Medical Society," praying that the prayer of the aforesaid petition may not be granted; are of opinion, that the importance of the subject requires more time and attention than the committee or Legislature can at this late period of the session, bestow thereon; and do therefore, by and



with the mutual consent of the said parties, report, that the further consideration of the subject be referred to the next session of the present General Court.

Which is submitted.

EZRA STARKWEATHER.

Per order.

In Senate, June 21, 1811.

Read and accepted.—Sent down for concurrence.

SAMUEL DANA, President.

In the House of Representatives, June 22, 1811.

Read and concurred.

JOSEPH STORY, Speaker.

A true copy—Attest.

C. P. SUMNER,

Clerk of the House of Representatives.



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